



WHAT IS Dominick "Spike" Mazza praying for. If he were praying for Chager win Saturday, it worked. With him are Joe Mazza, left, and Ben Jackson, right. See story on page 6. (MIRROR photo by Ros-All)

Eyewitness account of accident

Terrifying hornblowing foretells of accident

Kay Shifler was standing looking out an upstairs window, and her husband, Oliver, a Carbondale funeral director, was seated at his desk, talking on the telephone. They were in the apartment they share located over their funeral home, at 94 N. Main Street in Carbondale.

It was exactly 2:30 last Thursday afternoon. It was then that Kay Shifler heard the sound...the ominous, terrifying hornblowing of a runaway truck careening down Canaan Street.

She had heard it before...one Friday evening a month or so ago, when a tandem dump truck swerved down the dangerous incline.

Hang up quickly!
"Hang up quickly," she urged her husband, "it's a runaway truck. Call the police!" Oliver Shifler immediately telephoned Carbondale police, and from her window Kay Shifler watched as the big rig rolled into view, out of control.

"I give a lot of credit to that driver, the way he maneuvered that truck," Mrs. Shifler told the MIRROR. "He could have wiped out a bunch of lives."

As the huge truck barreled toward the foot of Canaan Street and the sharp curve at the bottom where it joins North Church, Kay Shifler could see the driver's face, turning to the right and left, trying to decide which way to steer the rig so that it would do the least amount of damage. There was traf-

fic at the light in front of Zazzera's Market, which he would surely hit.

As he hit the curve, he deliberately jacked-nifed the big truck so that it came to rest across the intersection of North Main and North Church, a yard or two from the structure at that corner, the old Chellino building.

After calling police, who dispatched fire and ambulance personnel, the Shiflers rushed into the street to see if they could offer help.

Mrs. Shifler told the MIRROR that Dr. Louis Lattner, a chiropractor who maintains offices across the street from the funeral home, hurried to the scene and stayed with one of the victims in the ambulance arrived.

"It was terrible to see and hear," Mrs. Shifler commented on Friday. "Although we're out of the way, on the second and third floors, we see so many dangers here."

The Shiflers, like many Carbondaleans who gathered at the scene on Thursday afternoon, wonder what might have happened had the big rig plunged down the hill out of control an hour or even a half hour later, when school buses loaded with home-ward bound children might have been in the area.

They wonder, too, what would have happened had not the driver, while he was pounding his horn to sound a warning and trying desperately to control the runaway

vehicle, had the presence of mind and the experience to flip the rig over.

A catastrophe could have occurred with great loss of life. The Shiflers wonder why an off ramp for runaway trucks could not be constructed somewhere near where Belmont Street intersects with Canaan, or behind Smith's gas station.

They also wonder why some kind of police alarm to the factories in Carbondale cannot be implemented, to warn workers on their way home to avoid certain intersections obstructed by accidents such as the one last Thursday.

Traffic tied up
"Traffic was tied up for several hours in Carbondale, and a large crowd gathered to watch rescue and cleanup operations. The truck's load was reportedly a shipment of plastics bound for a delivery in Forest City.

Mrs. Shifler recalls the accident a number of years ago when multiple fatalities took place as a group of southern workers, employed at a regional fair, lost control of their vehicle and careened down Canaan Street to their deaths. At the time of that runaway, residents who lived along the hazardous Canaan Street hill heard the screams of the victims as they plunged to their deaths.

At the time of that accident, one woman who lived on Canaan Street remarked, "I will carry the sound of their screams ringing in my ears with me the rest of my life."

See related story and photograph on page 3.

Next (?) mayor waits in the bullpen — again

By NAN WATERS

Always a bridesmaid and never a bride! For all practical purposes, Carbondale City Council President James V. McMyne (pronounced McMin), who is expected to become mayor of the Pioneer City within the next month, should feel that way.

Actually he doesn't. He feels more, as he puts it, "like a bullpen mayor...a mayor waiting in the bullpen."

He should. This will be the second time McMyne, a Democrat, has assumed the mayoralty of the city under the Home Rule Charter of 1977. The first time was for 10 months when Mayor A.J. Kaufmann, M.D., died.

Now that Mayor Fred J. Mancuso has verified to the MIRROR that he will quit, with an announcement to the press, scheduled for late November, Jim McMyne again faces the prospect of becoming the city's chief executive.

And what happens when Mancuso's unexpired term ends in 1987? The MIRROR asked McMyne in an informal pre-arranged interview over coffee in a local restaurant.

"I'll run for Mayor," McMyne says simply. "I don't think we can afford so many changes in such a short time." And what does he see ahead for the City of Carbondale? What does he plan to do when he becomes mayor?

Stability needed
"I don't like to make any promises I can't keep. My first priority will be to get some stability into all departments of city government, particularly financial stability."

Mayor Mancuso, a Republican, is resigning, as he told the MIRROR last week, for "personal reasons...to spend more time with my family." In addition to holding down the \$1,800 per annum city post, he teaches ∞ in Penn State's Wor-

thington Scranton campus, is a consulting engineer, and city businessman.

McMyne, on the other hand, retired three years ago after working for 32 years for Blackstone Cigar Company, and Parco Investment Services.

In his statement to the MIRROR regarding his forthcoming resignation, Mancuso made no reference to his frequent battles with Democratic members of City Council over alleged "robbery-Pete-to-pay-Paul" financial practices at City Hall.

No one, not even Councilwoman Charlotte Moro or Councilman Michael Tolares, his most frequent critics, have accused Mayor Mancuso of anything but alleged mismanagement.

McMyne doesn't wish to comment on Mancuso's imminent resignation or the reasons for it, but he does recall how demanding the mayor's job was when he held it before, at a time when he was also employed.

"There are just so many hours in a day," he commented.

And what changes in City Hall personnel is future Mayor McMyne anticipating?

"No comment," he replies firmly, sipping his coffee and smoking a cigar.

What is Carbondale's biggest problem, the MIRROR asked.

Apathy, Apathy
"Apathy. Apathy of the people." How about unemployment?

"Unemployment has always been a problem here. We have to have something more to offer industry coming in, but I don't want to promise anybody pie in the sky."

Will he raise the tax millage?

"No. There have to be other ways to raise money, although I don't want to make any definite statements now. I can't make campaign promises, political promises or grant political favors."

An indifferent politician from the start.

McMyne was asked to run for City Council in 1977 under the Home Rule Charter, for a year. "I can do that standing up," he figured, and his political career began.

He was born at 59 McCabe Ave. on the city's east side, and lives at that address now with Carbondale's next first lady, the former Janet Baker, to whom he's been married almost 40 years. They've reared four sons and a daughter, and have five grandchildren.

McMyne was graduated from Benjamin Franklin High School in 1939, and served in the army six years including the infamous Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941, when he was stationed at Pearl Harbor. In 1971 he suffered a heart attack, and seven years later had open heart surgery.

Today he's in excellent health, having given up cigarettes, but he still smokes a pipe and cigars.

He relaxes and exercises by playing nine holes of golf five times a week with a group of 12 retired friends, and "we walk...we don't use a cart." He admits to playing in the low 80's.

He and his wife had planned a Florida vacation...the first we've ever had together this winter, but his upcoming mayoral role will probably change those plans.

He hopes to surround himself with competent people, and is strong on "courtesy in government. I can't stand it when I hear an employee who is actually working for the public pick up a phone and answer, 'Yeah'."

And will the new mayor plan regularly scheduled press conferences, the MIRROR asked, as our interview came to a close.

I hope so, if I have anything to say. If I don't like what you write about me, I'll tell you."

With his youthful, athletic appearance, and authoritarian mien, we doubt if any of Carbondale's city hall reporters will ever refer to Jim McMyne as "the old grey mayor."

We know we won't.



WINNERS OF Carbondale Area Band and Marching Units Parents Association-sponsored Halloween Parade Sunday afternoon pose for photograph. In front, from left, are Kelly O'Neill, Kara Mihal, Jerry Usher, Nichole Pavalone, Danny Rumford. Second row, same order, are Tracy Ward, Melissa Ward, Matthew Balsavage. Third row, usual order, Donny Rumford, Megan Pryle, Leah Fotia, Penny Pavalone, Paula Pavalone. Fourth row, Jerome Maida, Matthew Maida, Vikki Moran, Collette Connor. Judges were: Sister Charlotte, CJC, principal, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel; Sister Ann McLaughlin, coordinator, St. Rose Elementary; Dominick Famularo, principal, Roosevelt Elementary; Paul Kaczmarcik, vice principal, Carbondale Area; Judith Calabro, superintendent of schools. (MIRROR photo by Ros-All)

But no danger of closing doors

Library needs promised money

"We're not closing tomorrow," Anne Muldoon, Carbondale Public Library librarian, told the Carbondale Mirror when asked how bad the library's finances are.

The library, through its board, had recently asked the city to expedite the \$3,000 that the city had marked in its 1981 budget for the library, but had not yet given to the library.

We need that \$3,000," she said, adding that the library board had it budgeted in its current fiscal plans and will use it for its oil heating bill and salaries.

Wouldn't cripple it
Yet the loss of that money would not cripple the city library.

"Our problems are different than Scranton because they have all those professional people," Miss Muldoon told the MIRROR.

Scranton Public Library's budget. The bulk of the library's monies comes from the annual fund raising drive which this year netted about \$12,000 of the \$14,000 goal.

One of the best
This drive, Miss Muldoon said, was "one of the best drives."

The city library also gets about \$5,000 from the state each year.

To get that amount the local library must spend about \$25,000 in locally-raised monies.

But what should happen if the city does not come through with all of the monies it has promised?

"We'll have to close Wednesdays and buy fewer books," the librarian explained.

However, the loss of the city money would not have as great an effect as it would have in 1966 — the first year that the library began receiving the \$3,000 amount.

As it stands now, the library is considering closing an hour earlier each evening.

While this would have its benefits economically (saving on electricity and heat), Miss Muldoon explained that the anticipated closing at 8 p.m., starting around Nov. 15, is being taken because of changing lifestyles.

People just aren't going downtown as late as they used to, she said.

Area residents may not be aware that memorials for deceased friends and relatives may be donated to the Carbondale Public Library for the purchase of books.

Contributions in almost any amount may be given to the Library for the purchase of a specific book, or an undesignated one, according to Miss Muldoon.

An appropriate bookplate listing the name of the deceased and the donor is placed in the volume, and the family of the recipient is notified by the library that the gift has been given.